

Herald Journal

Thursday, March 01, 2007

Monticello, IN

Weather for Monticello
Thunderstorm
Time: 8:00 am
Temp: 38
RealFeel Temp: 22
Humidity: 79
Winds: ESE at 15 mph
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911 center welcomes recent good news

Katie Duffey
Reporter

Wednesday marked perhaps the only instance in which the saying "better late than never" could apply to anything inside the White County Communications Center.

Treasurer of State Richard Mourdock visited the center Wednesday morning, coming on the heels of a big funding transfer that netted large monetary sums for every county in Indiana.

According to Mourdock, the \$39,521.08 White County 911 received at the beginning of the year came from the excess money left over from a wireless 911 technology program through the state.

Rebating each county with a per capita fund, Mourdock said that the more help his office can provide to 911 centers across the state, the better chance they have at effectively saving lives, as well as the sanity of dispatchers.

"The more technology that can be purchased by these centers with the money we are able to give them, the better they will be able help people in an effective manner," said Mourdock. "It also means that it might make for a little less stress for the dispatchers."

The center's director Terri Conwell, who learned that this money was to be coming to her department during a conference in December, was glad to be able to go to the White County Commissioners meeting last month with good news. Frequently voicing concerns about issues like the high turnover rate of employees at the center, Conwell said it was nice to be able to voice a positive for a change.

"This is a tough job, and it isn't for everyone. We trained 13 people last year, and just one of them is still here," said Conwell. "I feel like I'm always going to those meetings and complaining or saying we are short-staffed. It was nice to be able to be positive and say that we're actually getting money."

Conwell said that the money, which she received last month, has been put back into the 911 fund, and will likely be put toward a phone system upgrade the center will be needing soon.

Noting that all 92 counties in Indiana received a portion of these funds, including almost \$33,000 going to Carroll County, Mourdock said that he is proud of the strides being made in Indiana to be on the forefront of 911 technologies.

"The wireless 911 system in Indiana is considered to be the national leader and is far and away from the others," said Mourdock. "Other states in the country really look to Indiana to see what we are doing here, and it is one of my goals to help continue that."

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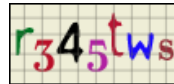
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